CRITICAL ISSUES

- **CLEAN OUT OF HIGHLY RADIOACTIVE MATERIALS IN 300 AREA IS BEHIND SCHEDULE**
  Six legacy grout containers and four newly generated containers in the 324 B Cell cannot be shipped to the 200 Area burial grounds due to heat loading and/or required classification of the grout containers. Although sampling data indicates the legacy grout containers will remain classified as remote-handling TRU (RH-TRU), characterization is not yet complete. The project is pursuing temporary storage of the grouted containers generated from B Cell into the adjacent C Cell. This option would alleviate congestion/space problems until shipment to the 200 Area can be effected. A baseline change request (BCR) FSP-99-017 is in process to resequence B Cell Cleanout activities and identify alternative storage for grout containers.

- **RISE IN TANK 241-SY-101 SURFACE LEVEL**
  Efforts continue to prepare for a transfer of waste to 241-SY-102 and subsequent back dilution with water into 241-SY-101 to remediate the slow growth in the crust thickness and surface level of tank 241-SY-101. This is not an imminent safety concern, however, it may present a Resource Conservation and Recovery Act of 1976 (RCRA) regulatory concern regarding "double containment:. Over the last month, the crust level rise has slowed to <0.03 inches per day compared to >0.07 inches per day as had been previously recorded. The Unreviewed Safety Question (USQ) on the level rise has been revised and additional safety controls for current and planned tank operations are being implemented.

- **ULTRASONIC TESTING OF DOUBLE-SHELL TANKS**
  Ultrasonic testing of double-shell tank 241-AN-105, performed in December 1998, detected an indication of thinning at one point on the tank wall. Thinning measured to a maximum of 20 percent (0.4 inch of thickness) relative to the nominal wall thickness of 0.5 inch. Although this does not pose an immediate structural problem, it may shorten the storage life of the tank. The initial readings were documented in an Occurrence Report on February 1, 1999. Potential causes of the thinning under evaluation include: 1) construction / manufacturing, 2) corrosion, and 3) erosion. The next tank to be examined will be tank 241-AY-102, which is scheduled for May 1999.

- **SIGNIFICANT HEEL FOUND IN BOWLING BALL CASK**
  The heel contained in the bowling ball cask located in the High-Level Radiochemistry Facility may be regulated waste because of its size and historical use for liquid waste transfer to the 300 Area radioactive liquid waste system. Contents of the cask are being managed as waste pending analysis pursuant to Ecology Technical Information Memorandum 92-5.